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MEMORANDUM FOR:  PLANS/OPC

SUBJECT: Basic OPC Manuals

1. The following comments are submitted with reference to your query concerning the utility to TRC of the basic OPC manuals so far produced.

2. The draft manuals in the fields of covert psychological warfare, escape and evasion, guerrilla warfare, economic warfare, and political warfare have been reviewed, and detailed comments have been transmitted on the first three draft manuals.

It is the opinion of TRC that the first two of these manuals are, in their present form, of considerable use in training. Neither of them is designed to cover the discussion of specific operational problems, and the reasons for this omission are clearly understood. So far as definition and general policy is concerned, however, they are considered satisfactory basic documents.

The third manual was the subject of considerable comment, and it is believed that the amendments recently made in it have enhanced its value substantially. It is still felt, however, that the manual still lacks the balance and breadth of coverage which it must have to serve as a satisfactory basic training document. In particular, the lack of coverage of the problems of guerrilla force development, and of criteria to be used in determining the proper utilization of such forces is considered a major shortcoming.

The other two manuals, i.e., those on political warfare and economic warfare, are of very limited utility for the purpose of giving instruction in clandestine operations, since they present in essence general surveys of overt methods by which efforts in these fields can be carried out, and do little more than identify some clandestine methods that have been used in the past. In addition, they do not provide any adequate examination of the relationship of these fields to other clandestine action fields.

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NO CHANGE in Class. ☐

☐ DECLASSIFIED

Class. CHANGED TO: TS S C

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By:

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3. The Doctrine Development Staff of TRC has been established to ensure that adequate guidance and relevant training material, such as these manuals, is prepared or secured for use by instructors within TRC. This staff will continue its efforts to keep appropriate OPC offices informed of TRC requirements, and TRC stands ready to continue cooperation.


Assistant Director for Training, Covert

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